

OPINION 1874

Aptornis Owen, 1848 (Aves): conserved as the correct original spelling

Keywords. Nomenclature; taxonomy; Aves; extinct flightless birds; APTORNITHIDAE; *Aptornis*; New Zealand.

Ruling

(1) Under the plenary powers it is hereby ruled that the correct original spelling of the generic name *Apterornis* Owen, 1848 is *Aptornis*.

(2) The name *Aptornis* Owen, 1848 (gender: masculine), type species by monotypy *Dinornis otidiformis* Owen, 1844, is hereby placed on the Official List of Generic Names in Zoology.

(3) The name *otidiformis* Owen, 1844, as published in the binomen *Dinornis otidiformis* (specific name of the type species of *Aptornis* Owen, 1848), is hereby placed on the Official List of Specific Names in Zoology.

(4) The name APTORNITHIDAE Bonaparte, 1856 (type genus *Aptornis* Owen, 1848) is hereby placed on the Official List of Family-Group Names in Zoology.

(5) The name *Apterornis* Owen, 1848 is hereby placed on the Official Index of Rejected and Invalid Generic Names in Zoology (ruled in (1) above to be an incorrect original spelling of *Aptornis* Owen, 1848).

History of Case 2879

An application for the conservation of *Aptornis* Owen, 1848 as the correct original spelling of the generic name first published as *Apterornis* was received from Dr Erich Weber (*Eberhard-Karls-Universität, Zoologisches Institut, Tübingen, Germany*) and Dr Frank-Thorsten Krell (*Theodor-Boveri-Institut für Biowissenschaften der Universität, Würzburg, Germany*) on 16 February 1993. After correspondence the case was published in BZN 52: 170–174 (June 1995). Notice of the case was sent to appropriate journals.

Comments in support from Dr B.J. Gill (*Auckland Institute & Museum, Auckland, New Zealand*) on behalf of the Checklist Committee of the Ornithological Society of New Zealand, and from Prof Walter J. Bock (*Columbia University, New York, N. Y., U.S.A.*), were published in BZN 52: 346–347 (December 1995). In his comment Prof Bock proposed (BZN 52: 347) that the family-group name APTORNITHIDAE Bonaparte, 1856 be placed on the Official List in addition to the names recorded in para. 8(2) and (3) on BZN 52: 172. This additional proposal was included on the voting paper.

Decision of the Commission

On 16 September 1996 the members of the Commission were invited to vote on the proposals published in BZN 52: 172, with the addition of the proposed placement of the family-group name APTORNITHIDAE Bonaparte, 1856 on the Official List published on BZN 52: 347. At the close of the voting period on 16 December 1996 the votes were as follows:

Affirmative votes — 24: Bock, Bouchet, Brothers, Cocks, Cogger, Eschmeyer, Heppell, Kabata, Kerzhner, Kraus, Lehtinen, Macpherson, Mahnert, Martins de Souza, Mawatari, Minelli, Nielsen, Nye, Papp, Patterson, Savage, Schuster, Song, Štys

Negative votes — none.

Dupuis abstained.

Ride was on leave of absence.

Dupuis commented: 'I refuse to vote on this case because in my personal view the time between the last comment and the distribution of voting papers was too short. The last comment was less than one year old'. [*Editorial note*. The comment was one of support. An explanation of procedure followed in sending cases for voting was given in BZN 54: 53–54, March 1997].

Original references

The following are the original references to the names placed on Official Lists and an Official Index by the ruling given in the present Opinion:

Apterornis Owen, 1848. *Proceedings of the Zoological Society of London*, 16: 1 (an incorrect original spelling of *Aptornis* Owen, 1848).

Aptornis Owen, 1848. *Proceedings of the Zoological Society of London*, 16: 1 (incorrectly spelt as *Apterornis*).

APTORNITHIDAE Bonaparte, 1856. *Comptes Rendus Hebdomadaires des Séances de l'Académie des Sciences*, Paris, 43: 109.

otidiformis, *Dinornis*, Owen, 1844, *Transactions of the Zoological Society of London*, 3(3): 247.